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The Director's cut



THE DIRECTOR'S CUT

WELCOME TO THE LAST ISSUE OF ABSTRACT!

In an effort for all the regional offices to work together better we decided to combine our efforts to produce one newsletter rather than 8. Given that much of the content was common across the States, the Regional Directors thought this was a great opportunity to work cooperatively and place greater efforts into assisting State and Territory Governments in the use of data. In **Upcoming Changes** under [ACT Statistical Publications](#) addresses this issue outlining our plans for a newsletter for all States and Territories as well as the future of the joint State and Territory indicator publication.

Other than that there most important Statistical event for this year is the Census of Population and Housing on August 9. The recruitment of Area Supervisors has been highly successful - we had almost 10 times as many applicants as positions and this enabled us to recruit some extraordinary people to undertake this important work. We hope that many of the high quality applicants that have not won an Area Supervisors will consider being Census collectors. High quality collectors and area supervisors are the backbone of a successful census and so we are well on track to run a very good census in the ACT.

The ACT Office was out talking to young people at the Youth Expo in Garema Place on 1 April. We met some wonderful young people who were excited about filling in their first Census as an adult and even being collectors. One even gave the staff of the ACT Office a short but accurate history lesson on the taking of Censuses in Australia! Our challenge now is to spread this enthusiasm to other young people in the ACT in order to improve the count of this important part of our community,

We are also very keen to encourage everyone in the ACT to fill their Census in online. For the 2006 Census two-thirds more Canberraans filled their Census in online than the National average. With a heavy promotion campaign for the 2011 Census to encourage people to fill their form in online it is hoped that the ACT can have similar success this time around.

The other major statistical event this year is the Australian Health Survey. This is a very exciting survey as it is collecting new information that will greatly assist the development of health policy in Australia. There is also a voluntary collection of biomedical information.

Stephen Collett

ACT Regional Director

Stephen Collett - ACT office Regional Director



ACT Statistical Publications



ACT STATISTICAL PUBLICATIONS

UPCOMING CHANGES

Readers may have noticed that the latest issue of In fACT - Statistical Information on the ACT and Region (cat. no. 1308.8), February 2011 issue released 22 February 2011, was the FINAL issue. This is part of a review of the whole suite of ACT and state-based indicators publications and newsletters occurring over the next few months.

A new national publication is currently being developed for release in July 2011. The new product, State and Territory Statistical Indicators (cat. no. 1367.0), will make it easier to locate comparable data across the jurisdictions as it will have consistent content for all states and territories. The data content will also be more timely than at present, with updates published within a few days of their first release to the ABS website rather than quarterly or annually. Data will be presented graphically, along with some descriptive and explanatory comments, and occasional feature articles.

The new publication will effectively replace the content of our existing publications In fACT - Statistical Information on the ACT and Region (cat. no. 1308.8) and ABSTRACT, Statistics News, Australian Capital Territory (cat. no. 1344.8.55.002). ABSTRACT, Statistics News, Australian Capital Territory (cat. no. 1344.8.55.002) will also be discontinued, as from this issue.

2011 Census promotions



2011 CENSUS PROMOTIONS

ACT OFFICE GOES ALL OUT TO PROMOTE 2011 CENSUS

Census logo



Over the last two months, the ACT Regional Office, in conjunction with the ACT-NSW Census Management Team, has been heavily promoting the upcoming 2011 Census. The main aim of the promotion has been to increase awareness of the 2011 Census, increase application numbers for Area Supervisor positions and encourage people to be Census Collectors for the August count both in the nation's capital and in the surrounding regions.



ACT Census promotion team.

The National Multicultural Festival

The ACT office kicked off its 2011 Census promotion at the National Multicultural Festival in Canberra in mid-February this year.

Festival goers had the opportunity to visit the ABS marquee and enquire about 2011 Census job opportunities as either Area Supervisors or Collectors. Staff answered many questions ranging from the date of the 2011 Census through to the importance of the need to fill out the 2011 Census form.

ACT Regional Director, Stephen Collett, and Ilona Cipe Fraser, from NSW Census PR, were both a hit as they whipped the crowd into a frenzy with questions about Census and threw footballs, soccer balls and frisbees from all four stages.

Armed with promotional materials such as balloons, lollipops, pens and drink bottles, ABS staff did their best to ensure everyone who attended were well aware of the upcoming Census on 9 August 2011. If sore feet and husky voices were a measure then all staff agreed that the day was a huge success, with an increase in awareness of the 2011 Census, a big boost in application numbers for Area Supervisor positions and a large number of people registering their interest to be Collectors for the August count in the nation's capital!

Prior to the event, Stephen Collett gave a presentation to the volunteers of the National Multicultural Festival with the aim of getting future Area Supervisors and Census Collectors to register their interest for the 2011 Census.



ACT Regional Director, Stephen Collett, working the crowd.

Bega Show

The 2011 Census promotion continued on to the Bega Show where the relaxed environment allowed locals to have a more in-depth chat on how the 2011 Census could individually help them and their community.

Through visiting the ABS marquee and staff promoting the Census around the show, a number of locals were able to register their interest in being a Census Collector. This made the trip down the coast worthwhile and the showbags and balloons were once again a hit

with the crowds.

Cooma Show

The 2011 Census promotion roadshow moved on to Cooma Show. With the applications for Area Supervisor positions in the final stages, the emphasis was placed on registering locals to be Collectors. The response, once again, was fantastic with locals registering in droves!

One of the highlights of the day was when long time Cooma local, Ruth McFadden, expressed her joy on working on a number of past Census'. She stressed what a great way it was to meet people in the community and that she had loved every minute of it. This was more than enough praise to earn her a showbag and once again proved that, given the right attitude, being a Census Collector can be a very fulfilling and rewarding vocation.

To show our appreciation to the residents of Cooma, the NSW-ACT Census Management Unit presented the Cooma Show Society with a cattle halter to use as a prize for one of the show events.



Barbara Hill, Stephen Collett and Tim Power.

Youth Week

ACT Regional Director, Stephen Collett, "surfed the couch" in Garema Place, Canberra city, for Youth Week. Along with Tim Power, Jeremy Walker and Jessica Wanganeen, they mingled and mixed with the youth of Canberra and answered all the queries thrown their way about the upcoming 2011 Census.

Most students were unaware there was a census occurring this year but our staff did a great job to get the message out to the youth of Canberra. One young person did manage to stun our Regional Director when she reeled off the complete history of the Census to her friends!

Other promotional opportunities

- Census Management Unit District Manager for Snowy Region, Barbara Hill, and Stephen Collett were in Cooma to speak to community leaders and Cooma-Monaro and Snowy River Shire councillors about local employment opportunities. The

emphasis was placed on the need for Area Supervisors who were passionate about their community, who lived in the area and understood the lay of the land.

- Tim Power and Jessica Wanganeen from the ACT-NSW Census Management Team have been meeting with various local community groups and organisations in the ACT and surrounding regions to ensure that the ABS accurately measure the number and key characteristics of people in the territory during the Census. They addressed issues in areas such as Homelessness, Youth Affairs, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, people from non-english speaking backgrounds and people living in secure apartments.



Tim Power and Stephen Collett.

Upcoming events

- The ABS will be at the Lake Light Sculpture Festival at Jindabyne over Easter to continue more exposure of the 2011 Census to the Snowy region.
- The ABS will continue the 2011 Census push during NAIDOC Week in early July.

2011 Census information



2011 CENSUS INFORMATION

2011 CENSUS



The [ABS Census of Population and Housing: Outcomes from the 2011 Census Output Geography Discussion Paper](#) (cat. no. 2911.0.55.003) was released in February this year.

This release is the follow up publication to [ABS Discussion Paper: Census of Population and Housing - ABS Views on the 2011 Census Output Geography](#) (cat. no. 2911.0.55.002).

This second paper outlines the feedback received to the first, and the ABS response. It contains the revised matrix of products that will be released by each geographic area and an updated diagram of the Australian Statistical Geography Standard - Structure & Summary for Census.

Key points from this paper are:

Statistical Local Area geography

- Statistical Local Area geography is supported as a transitional unit for the 2011 Census only and will NOT be supported for 2016 Census

Local Government Area geography

- Local Government Area geography will continue to be supported beyond 2011 Census.

Geography boundaries

- Boundaries for Statistical Local Areas and Local Government Areas will be finalised in June 2011 to ensure they are current for the 2011 Census

Census Products

- All Community Profiles and DataPacks, apart from the Working Profile, will be

available for Statistical Local Areas

- Indigenous Profiles will be available for Statistical Area Level 2 through to Statistical Area Level 4 and Statistical Local Areas; as well as for Australia, State, Capital City, Remoteness Area, Local Government Area and the Indigenous Structure of the ASGS.
- Time Series Profile will be released for a range of ASGS areas as well as Statistical Local Areas, Local Government Areas, States and Territories, and Australia.
- QuickStats will be available for Statistical Local Areas
- Place of Work, Address 1 year ago and address 5 year ago will be released for Statistical Area Level 2 and Local Government Area
- The Estimated Resident Populations based on the 2011 Census will be available on both an ASGS and ASGC basis.

Future Census data availability on customised regions

- We anticipate that, subject to funding, in 2016 data users will be able to request Census data for customised regions, built up from Mesh Blocks.

If you have any further questions relating to Census Products & Services please contact the Census Helpline on 1800 676 646, email census.software@abs.gov.au, or visit our [Census Preview Our Plans](#) blog.

If you have further questions about the new Geography, please contact Geography or visit the [Geography portal](#) on the ABS website.

Census beyond the count



CENSUS BEYOND THE COUNT

2011 CENSUS



The Census | beyond the count conference was held at the Hilton on the Park in Melbourne from 2 to 4 March, 2011.

The conference was a great success that saw many great stories presented on how the Census has been used to provide and improve services to communities all over Australia. It also brought together people from all areas of policy and service providers including local, state and federal governments, businesses and academics and provided many networking opportunities for the 300+ attendees.

Bernard Salt gave the keynote presentation on Day One. During his presentation, Bernard discussed the changes in life cycles and retirement ages with the more recent inclusion of the 'lifestyle' and 'grey nomad' periods before settling into 'old age'; the skills shortages Australia is anticipated to encounter over the next decade; and his popular research into 'the man drought'. On Day Two, Dr Cassandra Goldie discussed closing the gender pay gap and issues faced by those of a diverse sexual orientation, and described how Census data can be used to provide evidence in determining policies created to address these issues.

Two panel discussions - on Homeless and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples - were held on Day One and addressed the different issues faced in regards to enumerating both these population counts and what can be done to improve the undercount as well as gaining the trust from both these groups. These panels generated much interest and discussion amongst delegates and were certainly a valuable component of the conference program.

During the Day Two plenary, Ivan Motley told us why he thinks 'Census is sexy', Catherine from IBM discussed how they are providing smart technology to run the eCensus, and Lara Wilde showed us how she uses the Census with local intelligence to match people to compatible rural towns.

The Connect with Census area was very popular as were the workshops, where delegates were able to learn more about the 2011 Census products as well as ask Census experts any questions that they had. Interest in the new statistical geography standard was particularly high, as was interest in the TableBuilder demonstration and discussion on what to expect for 2011.

The gala dinner held on Thursday night was a big hit. In keeping with the theme of 'a night in the lucky country', each table centrepiece represented an Australian location and was decorated with items provided by tourist centres from around the country - thank you to all the participating areas. These included Kentia Palms from Lord Howe Island; rough pearl shells, Zebra rock and sandalwood products from Broome; and Blue Lake lemonade from Mount Gambier. Dinner guests were joined on the night by some iconic Australian personalities - the Awful Umpires made sure that everyone was playing by the rules, while Dame Edna and Kath and Kim tribute artists provided entertainment. Everyone had a laugh and a good night, letting down their hair to dance to some great Aussie music.

The conference was rounded out by 'pecha kucha' session. The fast-paced pecha kucha format put some of our ABS staff to the test as they powered through 20 slides shown for 20 seconds each to tell their Census story.

Overall, Census | beyond the count provided a well-rounded balance of stories and information on many different topics, plus a bit of fun! Thank you to everyone who came along and made this conference a fantastic success.

Selected presentations from this event are available. See www.abs.gov.au/beyondthecount for details.

Australian Social Trends



AUSTRALIAN SOCIAL TRENDS

NEW EDITION

Across editions, Australian Social Trends addresses a wide range of current and enduring social issues, enabling a better understanding of key social issues in our community while also providing important information for policy development and review.

The articles in the March 2011 edition are:

Life expectancy trends - Australia

Examines the substantial increase in life expectancy in Australia over the past 125 years, some of the reasons for the increase, and some of the challenges posed by living longer.

Life expectancy, a good indicator of population health at the national level, shows that the health of Australians overall continues to improve. Life expectancy at birth has increased by over 30 years for Australian boys and girls over the last 125 years.

For 2007-2009, girls born in the Australian Capital Territory, along with New South Wales, had the highest life expectancy of all the states and territories (both 84.3 years), above the national life expectancy for girls of 83.9 years. The differences for boys was a lot bigger. For the same period, boys born in the ACT had the highest national life expectancy at birth (80.5 years), compared with the national life expectancy (79.3 years).

Health services: Use and patient experience

Considers people's reported use of selected services including GPs, pathology testing, imaging and medication use, and whether they were able to access appropriate services when they were required.

In 2009, people living in outer regional/remote areas of Australia were more likely than those living in major cities to have reported that they had waited longer than they felt was acceptable for a GP appointment (23% compared with 16%) and more likely to have gone to an emergency department because the waiting time for a GP appointment was too long (12% compared with 2%).

Health outside major cities

Compares the health of people living outside Major Cities with that of those living in Major Cities, looking at self-assessed health, chronic diseases, health risk factors and mortality rates.

Health outcomes differ between those living outside major cities and those living within them. In 2008, people who lived outside major cities were three times as likely to die from transport accidents, almost twice as likely to die from high blood pressure, 1.7 times as likely to die from heart failure and 1.6 times as likely to die from diabetes.

Contributing to poorer levels of health, people living outside major cities were more likely to be daily smokers (1.3 times as likely as their major city counterparts) or risky drinkers (1.3 times as likely). On the other side of the coin, they were also more likely than people in major cities to eat their fruit and veggies (1.5 times as likely to have met the national guidelines for fruit and vegetable consumption).

Year 12 attainment

Looks at recent trends in Year 12 attainment for young adults (aged 20-24 years) and the influence of Year 12 on further education, income and employment outcomes across the life course.

Australia's level of educational attainment is improving. Over the past decade, the proportion of young adults (aged 20-24 years) who had attained Year 12 increased from 71% (in 2001) to 78% (in 2010). In 2010, 86% of 20-24 year olds living in the ACT had attained Year 12.

There are some Australians whose level of attainment may not be as high. In 2010, Year 12 attainment rates were lower for young adults living in regional (67%) and remote (64%) areas, for young adults for whom neither parent had attained Year 12 (68%) and for young adults with a disability or restrictive long-term health condition (62%).

Education and Indigenous wellbeing

Examines how educational attainment is associated with health, employment and housing, and explores differences between outcomes for Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians across different levels of attainment.

The educational attainment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults (aged 18 years and over) has improved. In 2008, 71% had at least a Year 10 or basic vocational qualification, up from 48% in 1994; and the proportion of those with at least Year 12 or a skilled vocational qualification had more than doubled, from 16% to 37% over the same period.

Perspectives on Culture



PERSPECTIVES ON CULTURE

MOVIES MORE POPULAR THAN EVER

On March 4, 2011, the ABS released for the first time Perspectives on Culture (cat. no. 4172.0.55.001), a publication that draws together a wide variety of cultural related statistics to present a picture of the Australian cultural landscape. The inaugural edition contains four feature articles:

- Art Gallery and Museum Attendance
- Cinema Attendance
- Library and Archive Attendance
- Zoological Park and Botanic Gardens Attendance

Collectively, the articles show that ACT residents enjoy their cultural pursuits. For example, more ACT people aged 15 years or over attended the cinema (76%) than people from any other state or territory. The ACT also scored highest for people attending other surveyed venues and events, including art galleries and museums (both 46%), libraries (38%) and archives (16%). Although the greatest overall attendance rates at zoological parks and aquariums went to the Northern Territory, in terms of zoological gardens alone (i.e. excluding other wildlife parks, aquariums and marine parks), the ACT also had the highest proportion of the population attending (30%).

Additional information can be found within [Perspectives on Culture](#) (cat. no. 4172.0.55.001).

Sport and Physical Recreation



SPORT AND PHYSICAL RECREATION

ACT HAD HIGHEST RATE OF PARTICIPATION IN 2009-10

The latest results of the ABS survey of Participation in Sport and Physical Recreation show that 77% of people aged 15 years and over in the ACT participated in at least one sport or physical recreation activity in the 12 months prior to interview in 2009-10. This was higher than the overall participation rate for Australia (64%) and also higher than the participation rates in all other states and territories. The survey collects data about the characteristics of participants and non-participants, the frequency and duration of people's participation and the most popular sports and activities. Tables of ACT data are available to download as excel spreadsheets from the ABS website or by clicking on the following link [Participation in Sport and Physical Recreation, Australia, 2009-10](#) (cat. no. 4177.0) and going to the downloads tab.

Also released in December 2010 were the results of the ABS survey of Spectator Attendance at Sporting Events which found that about half (49%) of people aged 15 years and over in the ACT had attended at least one sporting event as a spectator in the 12 months prior to interview in 2009-10. The most popular sporting events in the ACT were rugby union (with an attendance rate of 15%), rugby league (with an attendance rate of 14%) and Australian Rules football (with an attendance rate of 11%). Further data for the ACT can be found in the ABS publication [Spectator Attendance at Sporting Events, Australia 2009-10](#) (cat. no. 4174.0).

ABS ACT statistical training program



ABS ACT STATISTICAL TRAINING PROGRAM

DEVELOP YOUR STATISTICAL SKILLS

Each office of the ABS offers practical, informative and relevant training to help you develop your statistical skills. These courses may also be tailored to suit your particular needs or additional programs can be developed as required for presentations at your own locality. The next scheduled courses for the ACT are:

- [Analysing Survey Data Made Simple](#)
- [Running Your Own Survey](#)
- [Introduction to Labour Statistics](#)
- [Principles of Questionnaire Design](#)
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- [Using ABS Datcubes in SuperTABLE](#)

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Have your say



HAVE YOUR SAY

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We would like to hear from you if you have any feedback on the content of the newsletter or suggestions for how it may be improved.

Feedback can be directed to the ABS ACT Regional office.

Telephone: 6525 8900

Fax: 6252 8009

Email: act.office@abs.gov.au

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About this Release

ABSTRACT - Statistical News: Australian Capital Territory provides new and relevant information about survey developments, information and training sessions, user consultations, major changes to the statistical program, state/territory data releases and

significant ABS data releases.

Explanatory Notes

Abbreviations

ABBREVIATIONS

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ASGC	Australian Standard Geographical Classification
ASGS	Australian Statistical Geography Standard

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